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legends of the same date), some stating that it was this woman whom Jesus cured of the bloody issue; whilst others maintain that she was no less a woman than Berenice, niece to King Herod. It is also said that after the dispersion of the Apostles, St. Veronica went in company with Mary Magdalene, Martha, and Lazarus, to Marseilles, where she wrought many miracles with her kerchief. The Emperor Tiberius (the legend proceeds) heard of these miracles, and, having fallen ill, summoned Veronica to Rome, where she cured him in an instant, and was rewarded with great honours and rich presents, though, ungratefully enough, he lived and died a pagan. The remainder of her life is said to have been spent at Rome, in company with St. Peter and St. Paul, and she bequeathed the miraculous handkerchief to Pope St. Clement. Notwithstanding all this, and though she is said to have suffered martyrdom in France, and, we believe, is acknowledged as a saint and allotted a place in the calendar, this legend has never yet, we believe, received the official approbation of the Roman Catholic Church, and may, therefore, we presume, be disbelieved without pain of mortal sin. Perhaps, however, as Pope Pius IX. has lately flattered, for the first time, another miracle, as old as Christianity itself, in his recent Bull, he may also, ere long, put the seal of his approbation on the legend of St. Veronica's handkerchief also.

We have not yet done with this instructive subject, and shall probably give our readers a few additional specimens of spurious relics in an early number.

THE LIFE OF A PRIEST.

(Continued from page 7.)

In the prosecution of any favourite object, what persevering industry is employed by man in the examination of all its bearings upon the destiny of his future life; and what energy he exercises, in examining all its collateral consequences? But, alas, what little exertion is employed in examining the doctrine of man's salvation, the most important subject that could engage the mind of man. The salvation of our souls is their deliverance from the guilt of sin, and the verdict of God is, that all have sinned—"There is none righteous, no, not one." But is there no hope for the guilty, no pardon for the condemned? Yes, there is: To the Lord our God, belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him.—Dan. ix. 9. When the guilty repent sincerely, a full and free pardon of their sins is imparted to them. God says, "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."—Heb. viii. 12. The moment the sinner repents, he is free from the condemnation of punishment. David says (Psalms xxxiii. 1, 2), "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputes no sin. And, again, blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered." A full and entire remission of all their sins is granted them, through the all-sufficient merits of Christ's atonement, and the black catalogue of their crimes, which have been written down in the book of God's remembrance, by the recording angel, shall, by one penitential tear, be blotted out for ever.

A great portion of my time and attention has been hitherto devoted to the examination of the doctrine of salvation, as it is taught in the catechisms and in the Maynooth Class-book; and I found, in those books, no proofs taken from the Scripture, from the Fathers, or from the records of the early Churches, in support of the doctrine of salvation, as it is inculcated in the Church of Rome. But I found salvation more difficult to be attained in that Church than in the reformed Catholic Church, for the following reasons:—There were twelve new articles added to the original belief by Pius IV., six commandments, and five sacraments, by the Council of Trent—making altogether 23 new articles to be believed, more than are to be found in the belief of the early Churches, and not found at present in the Church of England; and to increase the difficulty, the members of the Church of Rome must believe them to be of divine institution, without proof and contrary to evidence, or an anathema will be hurled against them from the castle of St. Angelo: and it is thus the Church of Rome puts an extinguisher upon free inquiry, contrary to the doctrine of St. Paul, "prove all things."

As indulgences are hinged upon confession, I shall take them in order, and examine upon what authority they are founded. Pius IV. says—"I, also, affirm, that the power of indulgences was left by Christ to the Church, and that the use of them is most wholesome to Christian people." The Council of Trent says (Sess. 25)—"Since the power of granting indulgences has been bestowed by Christ to his Church, and she has exercised this power from the earliest antiquity, the holy Council teaches and enjoins, that the use of indulgences is, in the highest degree, salutary to Christian people; and it condemns with anathema those who assert, that they are useless, or deny that the power of granting them is in the Church." Here are the "ipsissima verba" of the Pope, and the decree of the Fathers of Trent, without any Scriptural authority, or definition of indulgences. But the catechism says, "that an indulgence is a release from the temporal punishment due to those sins that have been forgiven us by penance and confession, by means of the superabundant merits of Christ and his saints, which are applied to our souls, by the special favour of the Church." From this

doctrine I can conclude, that the merits of Christ alone are not sufficient without the addition of the merits of the saints; which must be considered as nothing less than awful impiety; and that our Blessed Lord did not speak the truth, when he said to his disciples, that they could have no merit of themselves—"When ye have done all things commanded, say, we are unprofitable servants" (Luke xvii. 10); which borders very closely on blasphemy. The Church of Rome holds, that the punishment incurred by sin is both temporal and eternal. That the eternal punishment is removed by the absolution of the priest, but that the temporal punishment must be paid in this life by penance, or in the next by the flames of Purgatory.

There is a well-known axiom in all schools, "qui potest majus, potest et minus eodem sub respectu." According to this principle, the priest who can absolve from the eternal guilt, can a fortiori absolve from the temporal punishment. The difference between the Church of Rome and Scripture doctrine is very perceptible in this instance. An Apostle tells you that if you confess your sins to God, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.—John i. 1, 9.

When God pardons a sinner, it is not by half measures, but he pardons him fully as well as freely, and eternally, by his own gracious agency, without money and without price; without sacerdotal interference, or Papal indulgences. Of this you have a striking instance in the case of the man who was sick of the palsy; and also in the instance of the weeping penitent of Bethany. My reading does not enable me to go, nor do I believe can any one, farther back than the first crusade, to establish the origin of indulgences. At that time of fanatical enthusiasm, the prison-doors of all Europe were thrown open to all prisoners, however enormous their crimes, and an indulgence was granted to all those who would join the standard of the cross, and a plenary indulgence was to be applied to the souls of all those who fell by the hand of the Saracen, or who plunged their consecrated swords into the heart of an infidel. The next place I find indulgences issued from the treasury of the Vatican, was at the commencement of the pontificate of Leo X., to finish the magnificent Church of St. Peter in Rome. For this ostensible purpose, indulgences were sold, and the traffic was carried to a shameful excess in the beginning of the sixteenth century, till this coin became so base by its too frequent currency, that it led to the Reformation, the happiest event that could happen to promote the civil, political, and religious liberty of Europe. The jubilee or plenary indulgence is of pagan origin, and was introduced into the Church of Rome by Martin V., in order to fill his exhausted treasury, and to facilitate his entry into Rome, after the great schism of the west. The word jubilee signifies a time of rejoicing. In the Old Testament it occurred every fiftieth year after the completion of the seven Sabbatical years, during each of which all labour ceased for man and beast; and even the land itself was allowed a seasonable repose. But we do not find the word jubilee in the New Scripture. It is a well-authenticated historical fact, that the Popes, after being forced to leave the Eternal City in consequence of their tyranny and political oppressions, resided at Avignon in France, during the period of 75 years; and that Otho Colonna was the first Pope who was induced to return to the City of the Hills, by Petrarch, to dry up the tears of the disconsolate widow who was mourning, in sackcloth and ashes, the absence of the spiritual father of the people. The deserted city, during her melancholy widowhood, has been pathetically, yet beautifully described by the elegant muse of Petrarch, at the revival of literature, in the commencement of the 15th century. Otho Colonna was the son of a Roman citizen of great ancestral claims upon the gratitude of the Roman people; when a period of great scarcity occurred, and the people were dying by hundreds of hunger, this benevolent Roman threw open his purse and his granaries, and saved the remnant of an expiring people. In gratitude, the people raised a column to his memory; and, in subsequent times, the family name was changed to Colonna. After the deposition of the Popes of Avignon, Martin V. was elected, and took every precaution to insure himself a favourable reception in his native city. Amongst the ancient customs of the Romans was, that of celebrating secular games on the first day of January of every century, in honour of the age of the Eternal City. The new Pope was well acquainted with the Carmen Seculare, which he read in his more youthful days, in the Odes of Horace, and was sung by a choir of youths dressed in the most gorgeous attire, amidst the shouts of an admiring people, who rolled along in one unbroken wave, from the steps of the Pantheon to the majestic dome of the Capitol. After which a donative was given to the people. Pope Martin deferred his entry into the city of Rome, until the first day of January, after his elevation to that See, and had, in the meantime, hymns of jubilee composed, to be sung on the occasion, by youths beautifully dressed, in imitation of the custom of heathen Rome. On the first of January he made his public entry into the city of the Cæsars, surrounded with all that was not only respectable, but magnificent, and preceded by a multitude of people who joined the youths in singing jubilate to Martin V., the representative of Colonna, the saviour of the Roman people. After the procession—a civic ovation—the Roman people were ordered to make an offering at the shrine of the

apostles, and a plenary indulgence was pronounced by Martin V. from the balcony of the Vatican. By means of this happy device, the Papal treasury was once more filled to overflowing, and the Pope was in a position to give a donation to the inhabitants of the city in imitation of the Roman emperors. Thus, the citizens of Rome, and all those who thronged into the city, were enabled to return to their respective homes, with erect heads and light hearts, after being relieved from an oppressive weight of sin by this timely yet imaginary indulgence.

The sale of indulgences, under the pontificate of Leo X., by Tetzel, a low, unprincipled man, who was selected by the Archbishop of Magdeburg, together with the great immorality of the clergy of the 16th century, were the proximate causes that led to the Reformation. From that period the human mind was emancipated from all the superstitious ignorance of the barbarous ages, and recovered its natural elasticity, while it shook off that oppressive weight which debased its powers and cramped its energies.

As it is with the doctrine of the Church of Rome I have to do, the immorality of the clergy before and at the time of the Reformation is foreign to my purpose, and I shall abstain from any inquiry into that disagreeable subject, and leave that task to others who may feel it their duty to expose it.

In proportion as we ascend to the days of the apostles the nearer we approach the noble simplicity of the Christian religion, like the radii of a circle that converge to its centre. The great advantage to be derived from falling back upon primary principles, is to be learned from Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws, in which he says, that as soon as he found out first principles, the laws by which nations are governed became very easy to him. Let us go back in imitation of that great man to the primary principles that are to be found in the Holy Scriptures, and we cannot fail in detecting the errors that have by degrees crept into the Church since the period of the apostolic age.

The next question I had to examine in the category was, "Is the Latin language which is used in the Roman Liturgy in accordance with Gospel principles?" I answer, certainly not; as we read in the Acts ii. 4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance. And they were all amazed, and marvelled, saying one to another, 'Behold, are not all these that speak Galileans. And how hear we, every man in his own tongue, wherein we were born, the wonderful works of God?'" The apostles received on this occasion from the Holy Spirit the power of speaking different languages, in order that their preaching might be understood in every part of the world.—In Mesopotamia and Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, and Asia. Yet the Church of Rome continues to have her prayers read in a dead language, which is not understood by the people. St. Paul devotes an entire chapter—the fourteenth of the first Corinthians—to this subject, to show the necessity of speaking in a language which the people can understand—"If I pray in an unknown tongue my understanding is unfruitful." The clergymen of the reformed Churches pray with their faces to their respective flocks, and, at the same time, in their vernacular language; whereas the priests pray with their backs to the people, and in a language which they do not understand—no, not even the clerk who makes the responses. In this instance the Church of Rome acts in direct opposition to her own decree, as the fourth Council of Lateran established it as a rule that the service should be in the vulgar tongue of every nation; and we find it so in every nation independent of Rome.

(To be continued.)

TALK OF THE ROAD.—No. XXVII.

PAT and Jem did not get together for a good while to have a talk; but at last they fell in on the road, and were walking together; but Pat did little at the talking, but kept looking mighty hard at his old coat, first at one sleeve and then at the other, and then on the big patches on the breast of it.

And, indeed, poor Pat's coat was very bad. It was once made all of blue frieze, and then it must have looked very smart; but, when times got hard, Pat had to get a piece on the coat betimes, because he never had the price of a new one; so there were black patches, and gray patches, and patches the colour of mud; and there were the legs of two old stockings, sewed over the arms, from the wrists to the elbows, to keep the patches together; and all the patches looked as if the best wife in the country could not keep them together much longer.

So Pat kept looking mighty hard at his coat, and talking little.

"What's the matter with the coat at all?" said Jem.

"Well, I'm studying the old coat," said Pat.

"Is it how to get a new one, you mean?" said Jem.

"Time enough to study that when the meal gets cheaper," said Pat; "it's this old coat I'm studying."

"Well, and what do you make out of the old one?" said Jem.

"Well, I had a discussion on it last night," said Pat, "and I didn't think there was as much to be got out of an old coat."

"And what's to be got out of it?" said Jem; "tell us that, Pat."